

DESIGN & CARE of LANDSCAPES & GARDENS IN THE SOUTH



VOLUME II

DAVID W. MARSHALL

**Design & Care
of
Landscapes & Gardens
in the South**

Volume II



Ideas for the Garden

David W. Marshall

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The author may be contacted by e-mail at davidwm777@gmail.com

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Who This Book Is For & How to Use It

If you live in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 8-9, as shown on the back cover, this book is for you! The objective of this book, based on the principle that a picture is worth a thousand words, is to visually give you ideas that you can use in your own garden or landscape. Or, if you are a professional horticulturist or landscape designer, this book will be a tool you can use to show customers plants for different sites and purposes.

This book, Volume II, is a follow-up of Volume I of *Design & Care of Landscapes & Gardens in the South*. Volume I was full of detailed information on plant selection and care. This volume is full of pictures. The two volumes are intended to work together. This set of books will be among your most valued garden references. Both volumes are available at <http://www.amazon.com/> and at many local garden centers.

If you have trouble finding a particular plant in this book at your garden center, don't hesitate to ask if the garden center can find the plant for you. Most independent garden centers will be very cooperative in this regard.

The plants shown in this book are not difficult-to-grow, finicky plants as long as you put them in the right place and give them basic care in terms of watering, mulching, etc. The author was an Extension Agent for 36 years. So he knows that most gardeners want plants that grow well without a lot of extra care.

About the Author

David W. Marshall graduated from University of Georgia with a Bachelor degree in horticulture and a Master of Plant Protection and Pest Management. He served as the Horticulture Extension Agent for University of Florida in Tallahassee for 36 years, retiring in June 2012. As Extension Agent, David wrote thousands of newspaper garden columns, taught thousands of Master Gardeners, and taught hundreds of classes for nursery and landscape professionals. He also did a number of radio and television shows on gardening. But one of David's favorite projects was working with Master Gardeners in maintaining a demonstration/trial garden consisting of thousands of types of plants.

David writes the gardening almanacs for both the Florida edition of *Southern Living* magazine and the *Florida Gardening* magazine. He has authored three books, *Design & Care of the Southern Landscape*, *Tallahassee Gardening*, and *Design & Care of Gardens & Landscapes in the South, Volume I*. He also works as a landscape consultant and photographer.

Visit the author's website at <http://landscapesandgardensinthesouth.com/>

Acknowledgments



I dedicate this book to my wife, Maria Isabel, whose patience has been taxed as I have worked long hours in this field that I love. She has spent many an hour with me visiting garden centers or taking plant photos. Without her support and help, I would have never finished this book.

I wish to also acknowledge my late parents, who instilled in me a love for the outdoors and the value of stewardship of the land.

Additionally, I wish to thank the people of Florida who gave me the opportunity to serve them as an Extension Agent with University of Florida IFAS in Leon County for 36 years. As an Extension Agent, I had the opportunity not only to teach, but also to learn a tremendous amount. Thank you!

Last but certainly not least, I want to thank my Lord, Jesus Christ, who makes it all possible and gives meaning to it all for me.

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1 Landscape Design



The eye follows **lines** in the landscape. Curved lines have a natural, informal character, whereas straight lines take on a formal character more often associated with symmetrical designs. The river of red plants here is coleus. The darker green lines are formed by alternanthera. The chartreuse patch is a sea of 'Marguerite' sweet potato. Note how your eye tends to follow the lines.

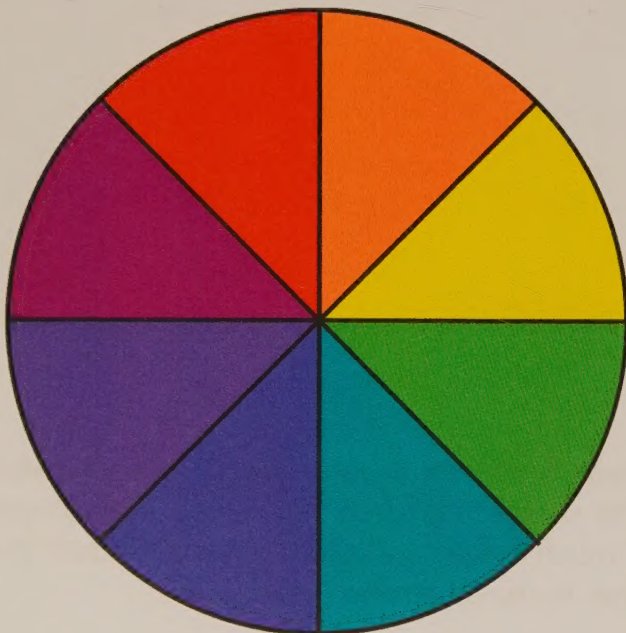
The **form** of a plant is one of its strongest characteristics. Form is the principal factor that makes a garden either formal or informal. It is good to have some contrast among plant forms, but not so much that the garden becomes confusing to the eye. These agaves have a strong, spiky form, quite a contrast to the turf, and even a different form from the trees and other vegetation.



Plant **textures** create variety and interest. The coarser textured variegated shell ginger is much bolder and more noticeable than the finer textured Mondo grass.

Color is the most conspicuous element in the landscape.

Note that there are contrasting textures and forms between the two shrubs, the variegated Dianella, and the red Hawaiian ti plant. But the strong red color of the ti plant is what dominates.



The **color wheel** can be used to create color schemes in the landscape. An analogous scheme uses colors that are next to each other on the color wheel. The colors blend well and are visually harmonious. A complementary color scheme uses color opposite each other on the color wheel. The colors complement each other, making each other stand out brighter. Red, yellow, and blue are the three primary colors, from which all the other colors are formed. The use of the three primary colors in the landscape has a very strong, stimulating impact. If the impact is too strong, it can be toned down some by using softer shades or tints of the primary colors.

(Image from Wikicommons, Benjah-bmm27)



An **analogous** or harmonious color scheme, made up of colors adjacent to each other on the color wheel, is shown above left by the use of orange and yellow crotons in the background, the yellow flowers of chrysocephalum, and the orange flowers of crossandra. The blue pansies and orange diascia (above right) are an example of a **complementary** color scheme, using colors opposite each other on the color wheel. Notice how it makes the colors jump out more than does the analogous color scheme.



Color is a strong element in the landscape. **Warm colors** are exciting and tend to reach out to you and grab your attention. Such is the case (above left) with burgundy alternanthera, gold duranta, and the bright reds and pinks of the bougainvillea.

Cool colors, like blue and green, are more relaxing and soothing. Above right, the flowers of the blue trailing torenia against the foliage of the variegated shell ginger create a very serene scene.



Gail Hansen, University of Florida Environmental Horticulture professor, discusses **visual weight** in the publication, "Basic Principles of Landscape Design" (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg086>). "Some areas of a composition are more noticeable and memorable, while others fade into the background." The less noticeable areas are nevertheless important, as they tie the whole landscape together and are resting places for the eye. If the whole landscape is composed of visually heavy components, it is confusing to the eye. The eye bounces from object to object.

Hansen says that high visual weight usually comes from a group of plants with one or a few of the following characteristics: upright or unusual forms, large size, bright colors, bold texture, and diagonal lines. Low visual weight is found in low horizontal lines, prostrate or low forms, fine texture, and subdued or dull colors. Note the high visual weight of the yellow coneflowers, *Rudbeckia*, (above left). Above right, the *Agave Americana* clearly is the dominant feature because of its form and size giving it visual weight.



The plants used in the landscape need to be in **proportion** to people, structures, and other plants so that everything feels balanced and harmonious.



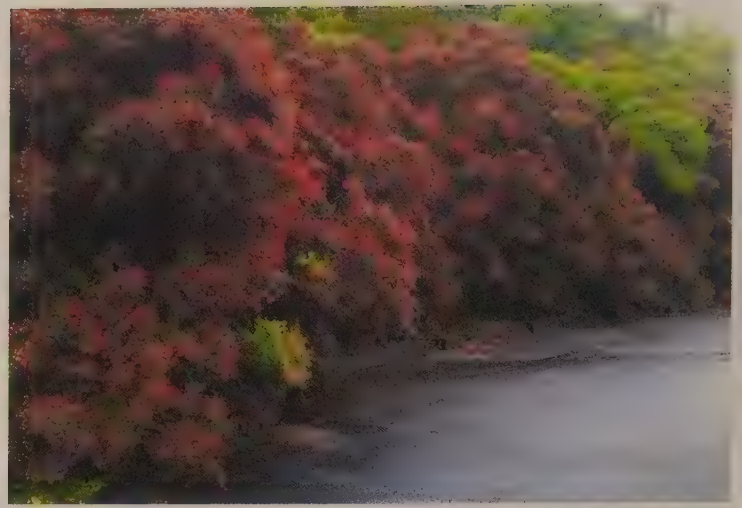
Balance in the landscape can be either **symmetrical** (above left) or **asymmetrical** (above right). Symmetrical balance, using the same plants on both sides of the center axis, has a formal look. Asymmetrical balance, using different plants on both sides of the axis, relies on masses of plants that appear to the eye to have the same visual weight.



A degree of **repetition** is important in the landscape. It helps to tie everything together. But too much repetition can be boring and monotonous. The repetition is broken up by **specimen plants**, plants that have a different size, form, or color and that stand out from the surrounding plants. The taller crape myrtles and taller shrubs are the specimen plants in these examples.



A certain degree of **simplicity** in the landscape is good in that it ties the landscape together without cluttering it up. Note the open lawn space in the landscape above. This is not only attractive but also very functional in that the lawn, away from trees and shrubs, grows better and is easier to maintain.



Mass in the landscape contributes to simplicity and makes a much clearer statement than using too many different types of plants. The loropetalum hedge in the above photo is much more attractive than would be a hodgepodge of a variety of plants.



Borrow ideas from landscapes and designs that you find attractive and adapt them to your garden. Commercial landscapes are often good sources of ideas for the home garden. The above left photo is from an apartment community landscape where the designer used verbena, crotons, marigolds, African bulbine, and coleus with a complementary color scheme. In the above right photo, note how the designer used line, mass, and color to create a showy planting at an office park entrance in Atlanta. The plants are coleus, purple heart (*Setcreasea*), and golden alternanthera.

More examples of plant combinations...



Euphorbia cotinifolia 'Burgundy Wine' and coleus of two colors.



Alocasia portadora 'Portora' (large leaves at the left), coleus of red and yellow, and 'Silver Saw' saw palmetto in background.



Hawaiian ti plant and 'Yalaha' coleus make an attractive combination in the photo at left.



In the photo to the right, Yucca 'Bright Edge' is at 7:00 o'clock, Colocasia 'Elena' (9:00 o'clock), 'Gold Mound' duranta (11:00 o'clock), 'Black Magic' cordyline (12:00), crotons & crossandra (3:00).



Lighter orange crossandra, darker orange 'Profusion' zinnia, and bright yellow melampodium in an analogous color scheme..



Trailing torenia flowers and Sanchezia foliage in the background.



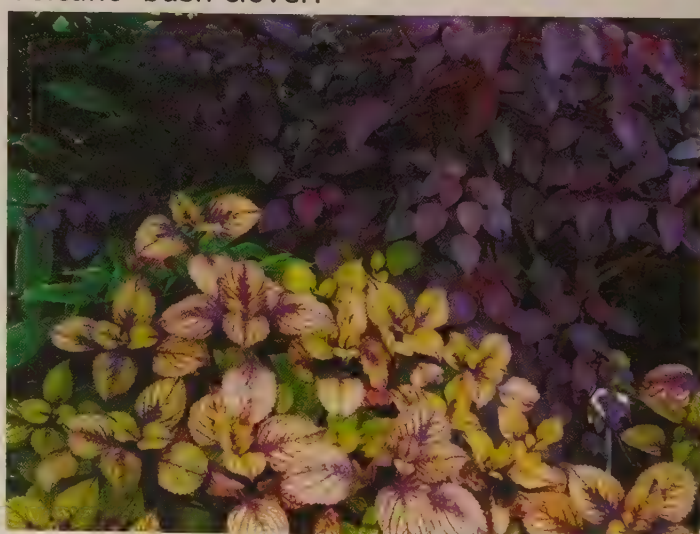
Lavender summer phlox, white butterfly bushes, and orange *Rudbeckia* provide the color.



Red orchid bush, yellow bush allamanda, yellowbells, variegated tapioca, and 'Little Volcano' bush clover.



Variegated Sanchezia foliage and white flowers of 'Silver Fog' or 'Diamond Frost' euphorbia.



'Fishnet Stockings' coleus and 'Burgundy Wine' euphorbia.



Hawaiian ti plant stands behind a variegated Sanchezia.



'Bourbon Street' acalypha (back) and yellow flowers of Mexican tarragon in the fall.



Red salvia and gold alternanthera.



Giant liriop in background with red and chartreuse coleus in front.



Red Knock Out roses at front, along with some other low-maintenance roses, backed by the burgundy foliage of 'Burgundy Wine' euphorbia and *Cordyline australis* 'Red Sensation', back center.



Petunias form the bed edge. Purple setcreasea, caladiums, and *Verbena bonariensis* (tall, lavender color) form the center of this bed.



The purple flowers of Mexican sage (*Salvia leucantha*) (left) bring out the purplish tone in the leaves of 'Alabama Sunset' coleus.



'Wizard' coleus with variegated liriope and pink flowers of jacobinia in the background.

2 Seasonal Color

As discussed in Chapter 1, color is one of the most conspicuous elements in the landscape. So let's look at more plants and combinations that can help you to use the exciting element of color in the garden.

Spring through fall has many possibilities...



We live in the South, where we have a long growing season, often early spring through late fall, 8-9 months. But our summers tend to be hot and humid, rough on many plants you will see in the northern garden catalogs. As Southerners, we need to grow plants that will thrive through our summers and give us 7,8, or 9 months of color. Many of the plants that handle our summers would be considered tropical. But survival through the summer is key for success in the southern garden. Even if the plants don't overwinter for us, we get more than half a year of color! And the good news for those of us in the lower South is that many of these plants will overwinter, coming back in spring, even if it be slowly.

Above left, 'Redhead' coleus is a vigorous grower with dark red foliage. It brings out the red in the undersides of the leaves of *Stromanthe sanguinea* 'Tricolor'. These plants will provide color in a shaded or partially shaded spot from spring until the first killing freeze in fall or winter. Neither will survive the winter, at least not reliably. Still, you get 8-9 months of color if you plant in early spring.

In the photo at right, on the left side is the chartreuse foliage of 'Gold Mound' duranta. To its right is spicy jatropha, 'Bourbon Street' acalypha with its coppery foliage, and firebush (*Hamelia patens*) with its orange flowers, a reliable perennial. At their base is the purple foliage of purple queen (*Setcreasea pallida*). The purple flowers in the top right foreground of the photo are from 'Little Volcano' bush clover (*Lespedeza liukiensis*), another easy perennial.



Above left, in full sun, is another acalypha, this one with leaves that have a pinkish tint to them. To its right is *Euphorbia cotinifolia* 'Burgundy Wine'. Though Burgundy Wine is not cold hardy, its color can be enjoyed from the time it's planted in spring until the first freeze of fall or winter. And it is easy to root to have plants ready for next year. In the photo, above right, is Agastache 'Acapulco', with its festive pink and orange blooms. It is a perennial that can survive several years in the garden. For full sun.



Two tropical vines that can give us color on a sunny fence or trellis, late spring through fall, are allamanda (left) and mandevilla (right). Mandevilla will even return after a mild winter in the lower South. But, even if these colorful vines don't return the next year, they're worth planting for one long season of color. Get away from the mindset that everything you plant has to be perennial. Some plants are just worth it, even if they only last one long season. Bush allamanda, shown at left, has a good bit more cold hardiness.



Yellowbells or yellow elder (*Tecoma stans*), in the photo above left, is a vigorous grower and heavy bloomer in full sun. It comes back reliably each spring in north Florida. The plant behind it and to the left is *Acalypha* 'Haleakala', with its dark, fan-shaped leaves. Further left is *Tecoma stans* 'Orange Jubilee'. Above right is *Thunbergia battiscombeii* in full sun. It dies back in winter but comes back early in the spring. Goes until the next winter freeze. For full sun. Give it lots of room as it rambles. It flowers non-stop. Quite impressive!



Tibouchina urvilleana produces its purple flowers sporadically through the summer and flowers very heavy in fall. Give it full sun. It comes back reliably in the spring in the lower South. Variegated tapioca (*Manihot esculenta* 'Variegata'), a beautiful plant with its colorful leaves and red stems. Though not cold-hardy, variegated tapioca grows rapidly and is easy to root to carry over rooted cuttings through the winter. Note the complementary color schemes that can be created using the plants on this page.



'Tropicanna', above left, is one of the most beautiful cannas for the garden because its foliage is so beautiful. Yes, it does get canna leaf rollers, just as do most cannas, but its beauty makes it worth taking the time to use an insecticide occasionally if needed. Whenever you need something colorful to fill in a spot in the garden, particularly a partially shaded spot, there's always a coleus for the job. In the photo above right, 'Alabama Sunset' coleus is used along with the gold 'Tropicanna'. The lush foliage in the background is that of hidden ginger (*Curcuma*). Many of today's varieties of coleus can be used in shade or sun.



Euphorbia 'Burgundy Wine', above left, backlit by the sun. This euphorbia provides a long season of color that combines well with many other plants. It needs at least half a day of full sun. In the photo above right, 'Elena' *Colocasia* or elephant ear thrives in a sunny spot. Note how well the foliage of *Sanchezia nobilis*, lower right in the photo, compliments 'Elena'. 'Elena' will take sun or light shade. Chartreuse brightens darker areas in the garden. 'Elena' dies back in winter but comes back strong in spring. 'Lime Zinger' is a similar *Colocasia*. Avoid planting any of the elephant ears in drainage ditches or near lakes where they could get out-of-hand.



Another versatile chartreuse plant for color from spring through fall is *Duranta* 'Gold Mound', sometimes called *D.* 'Cuban Gold'. Use it as an annual, though it often comes back in the spring in the lower South. In the combination above left with the *Duranta* is 'Sonset' lantana, a very reliable, well-performing lantana. The photo above right shows the form of the *Duranta* and how well it brightens the garden with its chartreuse or lime green foliage right into fall.



In these photos, 'Petra' crotons, the most common type sold, are combined with parakeet flower (*Heliconia psittacorum*) in the photo at left, and with Sunpatiens and *Duranta* 'Gold Mound' at right. Sunpatiens will work well in lightly shaded areas as well as in full sun. The parakeet flower is one of the few heliconias which will bloom on the first year's growth. So it's an excellent way for those of us who don't live in tropical areas to still enjoy tropical flowers spring through fall. Use it as a warm-season annual. It will bloom spring through fall and is a good attractant for hummingbirds. The most common types you may find in garden centers are 'Andromeda', pictured in the photo above left, and 'Lady Di', a red and yellow-flowered type. 'Andromeda' and 'Lady Di' need at least about half a day of good sun. Use crotons as an annual throughout the garden, in sun or even moderate shade, to add easy color.



One of the best heliconias for those of us not in tropical parts of the South is *Heliconia hirsuta* 'Peru'. It lasts longer into the fall, can be potted and overwintered easily in a greenhouse, and even reseeds to form new plants in the garden bed. This heliconia prefers protection from the strong sun in the afternoon but still needs bright light. If you can't find it at a local garden center, ask them if they can order it for you. There are growers in Florida who can supply it. 'Peru' works well in containers, too.



At left, in a shaded spot, is a dark-leaved form of Sunpatiens, backed by *Stromanthe sanguinea* 'Tricolor'. At right is variegated shell ginger (*Alpinia zerumbet* 'Variegata'). If damaged by winter cold, it sprouts back from the base in spring. Notice how the variegated foliage stands out against darker leaves. Use the shell ginger in shade to sun.



The variegated foliage of *Sanchezia nobilis* (*S. speciosa*) combines well with chartreuse foliage such as the coleus above right. *Sanchezia* comes back slowly but surely every spring after freezing back in the winter here in north Florida. But even if used as an annual in the upper South, it's worth the effort because it gives color from spring through fall. It prefers a site where it receives morning sun but protection from the harshest afternoon sun, though it will tolerate the full sun.



Purple heart (*Setcreasea pallida*) makes an attractive groundcover planting in front of *Cleome* 'Senorita Rosalita' and 'Vista Bubblegum' Supertunias. Purple heart returns each spring in north Florida. Don't forget caladiums such as 'Gingerland' (above right) to brighten up shaded spots in the landscape. Plant caladium tubers in the spring in April. The plants will return several years in our area. They provide color from late spring until late fall.



Some of the best low-growing bedding plants for late spring through fall are trailing torenia and narrow-leafed zinnia (*Zinnia angustifolia* or *Z. linearis*), both above left. Trailing torenia spreads to make a solid carpet of flowers which will last until the first hard freeze. Give it morning sun but some protection from the hot afternoon sun so that the foliage won't bleach out. The yellow or orange narrow-leafed zinnia can take the afternoon sun just fine. Just don't try it in poorly drained soil. At right is the 'Profusion' zinnia. Available in other colors also, it, too, is a good choice for a summer bedding plant for a sunny location.



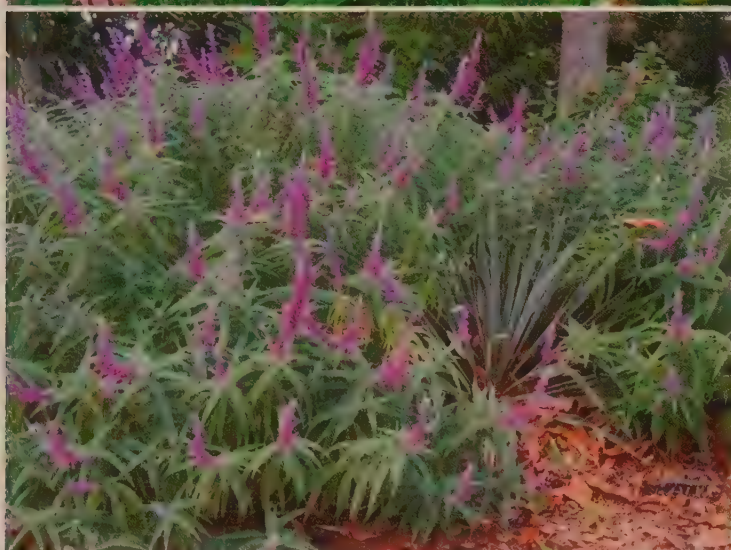
One of the best choices for a sunny, somewhat dry site is vinca or Madagascar periwinkle (above left). Crossandra, pictured at right, is also a good warm-season bedding plant for partial to full sun. It can't be started too early in the spring, as it needs warm soil, but it will bloom spring through fall once started.



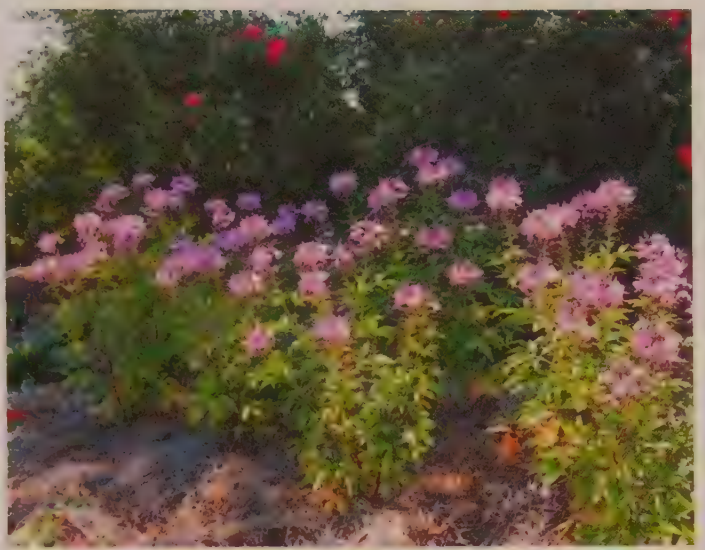
Turk's cap grows to be a rather large shrubby plant each season, flowering summer through fall with red flowers that are attractive to hummingbirds. It will grow in full sun to partial shade. Agapanthus, or lily-of-the-Nile, has strap-like foliage and sends up spikes of blue flowers late spring through summer. It will grow in full or partial sun. Both of these plants are reliable perennials.



Butterfly ginger (top left) and angel's trumpet (*Brugmansia*, right) are both tall fragrant perennials that bloom summer through fall. Both can grow in full sun, though butterfly ginger will do fine with a little shade. Hummingbird flower (*Dicliptera suberecta*), at left, blooms best in full sun but will grow in partial shade, making a nice groundcover with its gray-green foliage. It is very drought tolerant, and hummingbirds do like it. Great for a sunny area that won't receive much irrigation.



Top left, purple coneflowers are a good native perennial, attractive to butterflies. Top are pentas, very attractive to butterflies and blooming spring through fall. At middle left is Mexican sage (*Salvia leucantha*), which blooms mostly in the fall and is very attractive to hummingbirds. Above is the common magenta form of perennial garden phlox (*P. paniculata*) that is powdery mildew tolerant. At left is *Euphorbia cotinifolia* 'Burgundy Wine', which has burgundy foliage from spring through fall. It is not cold hardy and will not overwinter outdoors, but it's easy to root cuttings to overwinter for next spring's start. Give all these plants at least half a day of sun.

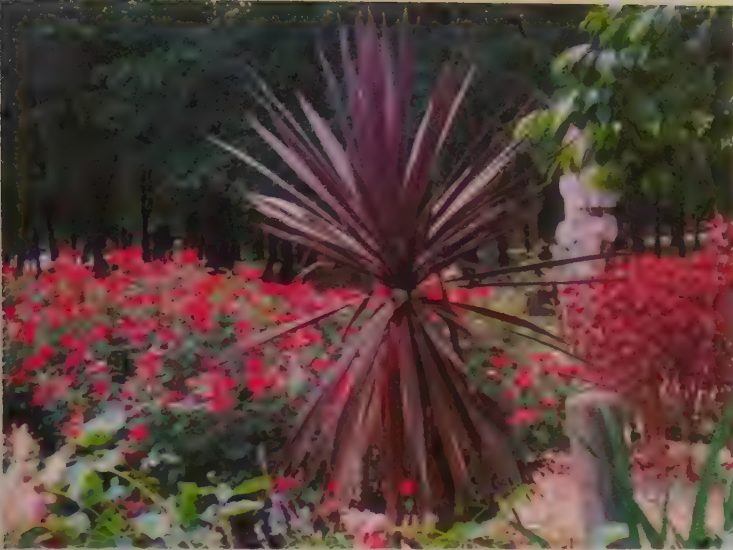


(Top left) Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow (*Brunfelsia* spp.) blooms for a long period in spring. Give this shrub morning sun and some protection from harsh afternoon sun. At top right, 'Senorita Rosalita' cleome blooms all the warm season in full sun. Hydrangeas (above) need some shade. Don't put them in harsh afternoon sun. Chaste tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*), in the background of the photo at middle right, needs full sun. It blooms in the summer. The buddleias (butterfly bushes), in the photo at right and in the foreground of the photo above right, also need full sun. The cleome is annual but the rest of these are reliable perennials. *Brunfelsia* is sensitive to cold as you move further north. It works best in Zones 8b-11.

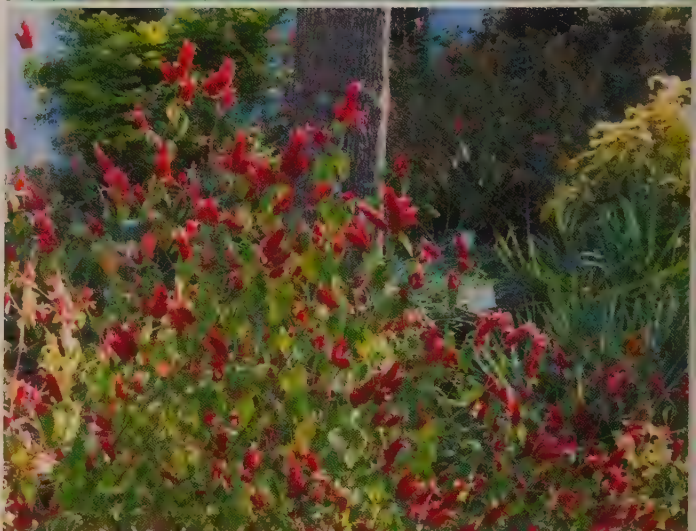




Drought tolerant perennials for full sun include African bulbine (top left), 'New Gold' lantana (top right), and 'Sonset' lantana (left center). Middle right is melampodium, a tough summer annual for sun to partial sun, that reseeds. Marigold, bottom right, another annual for full sun, can be used anytime spring through fall. Powder puff (*Calliandra haematocephala* and *C. surinamensis*) blooms summer-fall and may even come back for you, though slowly, after winter.



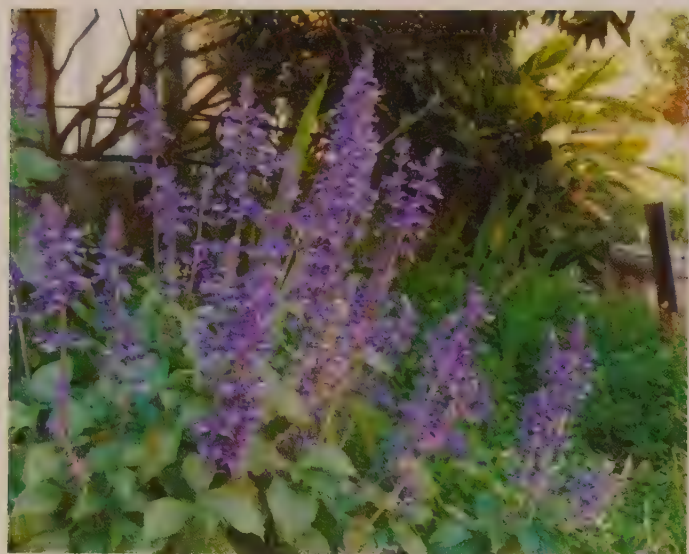
Cordyline australis 'Red Sensation' (top left) and grand crinum (top right) both are specimen plants that, because of their form, create focal points in the garden. Both are perennials for full or partial sun. Perennials to brighten shaded areas include lime-green hostas, such as 'Margarita' (left center) and variegated lacecap hydrangea (above). On a sunny site, 'Marguerite' sweet potato (left) creates a mass of chartreuse groundcover that provides a good contrast to darker plants such as the crimson fountain grass in the background.



Here are six perennials for shade to partial (morning) sun. Hidden ginger (*Curcuma* spp.), top left, flowers in late spring and has lush tropical foliage until late fall. Firespike (*Odontonema strictum*), top right, has red flowers in fall, attractive to hummingbirds. Jacobinia (*Justicia carnea*), left center, has flowers summer through fall. Bronze shrimp plant (*J. brandegeana*), right center, flowers spring through fall. Persian shield (*Strobilantes dyerianus*), above left, has colorful foliage spring-fall. Pineapple lily (*Eucomis* 'Sparkling Burgundy') has a pineapple-like flower in summer, but just its foliage alone is beautiful.



Don't forget old reliable perennials like society garlic (top left), daylilies (top right), 'Goldsturm' *Rudbeckia* (above), and African bush daisy (left center) for full to partial sun. Indian blanket flower (*Gaillardia*), left, is a drought-tolerant native annual for full sun. All these are summer bloomers, though the African bush daisy and society garlic start in the spring and continue well into fall.



Plumbago (top left) is a shrubby perennial that blooms spring-fall in a sunny location. *Salvia guaranitica* (top right) is a reliable perennial favored by hummingbirds. Blooms spring through fall in sun to partial sun. *Salvia* 'Majestic Spires' (left center) is a compact perennial salvia for sun to partial sun. *Iochroma cyanea* (above) dies almost to the ground in winter but returns each spring and grows to be a woody shrub 4-6 feet tall each summer. The clusters of blue-lavender flowers are borne summer through fall and are visited by hummingbirds. At left, rain lilies (*Zephyranthes*) flower repeatedly through the summer after rains. They are an easy-to-grow perennial bulb.



Other perennials include cigar flower (*Cuphea micropetala*), top left, which is very attractive to hummingbirds, and cape honeysuckle (*Tecomaria capensis*). They bloom summer to fall, but heaviest in fall, and do best in full sun. At left center is *Erythrina herbacea*, coral bean or Cherokee bean, a native which blooms in late spring. Right center is *E. cristagalli*, a small tree native to South America, but it will grow here in zone 8-11. It flowers in late spring to summer. Above is *E. bidwillii*, a cross between the two other species. It becomes a large shrub. Hummingbirds like all these *Erythrin*as. Plant in full sun.



Crepe ginger (*Costus speciosus*) is very attractive in summer with white flowers which arise from red cone-shaped bracts. After flowering, the bracts stay on the plant, leaving it attractive on into fall. In winter it dies to the ground but comes back in late spring. Grow it in partial to full sun, zones 7-12. Variegated spiral ginger (*C. speciosus* 'Variegatus'), above right, isn't as cold hardy and should be grown in a pot in zone 8.



Red orchid bush (*Bauhinia galpinii*) grows 4-5 ft. tall and 8-10 ft. across. It is covered with orange flowers, very attractive to butterflies, summer through fall. It suffers some cold damage but recovers quickly in spring in Zone 8b. Probably not cold-hardy much further north, though. For full sun.

Cool Season Color... possibilities for fall through spring...



Petunias actually do better during the cooler seasons of the year than during the summer heat. So plant petunias in September-October and enjoy them during the fall. They will stop blooming during the winter cold, but they will resume again in early spring and continue until the summer heat may cause them to melt out. But the key to getting such a long life cycle from petunias is planting in the fall.

One of the best petunias is the 'Vista' series such as Supertunia 'Vista Bubblegum', above right. It truly is a super petunia, outgrowing and out-flowering most others. Some of the others in the Vista series, bottom left, are also good performers, though not quite as strong as 'Vista Bubblegum'. At bottom right is Calibrachoa, closely related to petunia and used similarly. Though probably used more often in hanging baskets and containers, Calibrachoa can be grown in the ground also. The flowers are smaller. Plant petunias and calibrachoa in full sun.



Dianthus is also a cool-season flower. At left is 'First Love', a taller dianthus that is truly a perennial. It is lightly fragrant and blooms both fall and spring, though heaviest in late winter to early spring. Above right is 'Corona Cherry Magic' one of the lower-growing dianthus which acts more as an annual. Plant it in the fall to enjoy fall and spring. But they may fizzle out in the heat of the next summer. Plant dianthus of any type in full sun for best performance. It has to have at least half a day of full sun.



Verbena, above left is used as a summer annual in many situations, such as in this photo with crotons in the background. Some verbenas, such as 'Homestead Purple' can even act as perennials, carrying over for several years. But the photo, above right, was taken in Tallahassee during the dead of winter, showing that the annual verbenas are much more cold-tolerant than we usually think. Plant verbena in the fall and you may be able to enjoy it right into the next summer. Whether you use verbena in the cool season or warm season, plant it in full sun.



Above left, pink verbenas. Above right is 'Snow Princess' sweet alyssum. Most sweet alyssum is planted in the fall and blooms in fall and spring. But 'Snow Princess' will actually survive the following summer and live as a perennial. This photo was taken in the fall.



Diascia, above left, and nemesia, above right, are planted in the fall for blooms in fall and spring. Sometimes they will carry over through the following summer, but often they melt out in the summer heat.



Plant snapdragons in the fall, primarily for spring bloom. They will usually bloom until summer, sometimes even surviving into summer. But they usually melt out in the summer heat. They are annuals.



The most popular cool season annuals are pansies (top left) and violas (top right). *Erysimum* 'Citrona Orange' and 'Citrona Yellow' are great background plants for pansies (left center). So is giant red mustard (right center). Pansies and *erysimum* will bloom all winter if in full sun. Lobelia (bottom photos) needs cool weather but won't tolerate hard freezes, so it is usually planted in late winter or early spring. 'Techno Heat' (bottom right) has better heat tolerance than previous lobelia cultivars and holds up until about June before finally succumbing to the heat.



Winter cassia (*Senna bicapsularis*), top left, grows to be a large shrub and blooms in late fall to early winter with bright yellow flowers. Hard freezes will damage the plant, but it usually recovers well in spring. Fall through winter is also the season of camellia flowers (top right). In fall plant bulbs of daffodils or narcissus for late winter to spring bloom (bottom left). Fall is also the time to plant the seed of the annual, larkspur (lower right) which blooms in spring. Other seed that can be planted in fall for spring bloom include poppies, bachelor buttons, and sweetpeas.



Hardy gloxinia or Bolivian Sunset goes by the botanical name *Gloxinia sylvatica*. It is a "short day" plant, meaning it blooms when the days are short, October-March. Zones 8b-11, but can be used as a houseplant in colder areas. Full sun is best. Spreads to make a nice planting that will be a pleasure in winter when little else is blooming.



Kalanchoe and geranium share this cool-season planter which stayed outside all winter, flowering continuously. The new geraniums, 'Caliente' and 'Calliope', are much more heat-tolerant than older types. They will survive the summer and act as perennials, living from year to year.

Can you tell what the planter is made from? Hint... the hole is where the handle was. It's the tank of a toilet that I had to replace. My wife had the idea to paint it and make a planter. A few months later I saw that someone had put an entire toilet at curbside for garbage pickup. I'm still kicking myself for not having stopped and picked it up. It would have made a great planter too!

3 Shrubs

Small Shrubs

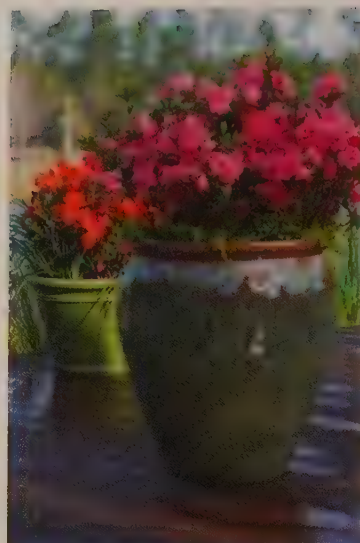


'Mojo' pittosporum, above left, is a variegated form, similar to the green 'Wheeler's Dwarf' form above. 'Carissa' holly, above right, also maintains a nice compact form as it grows. 'Purple Pixie' loropetalum (middle right) is a slow-growing dwarf form that grows to no more than about 18" tall but spreads laterally. Coontie, (bottom right, green foliage behind the nemesia flowers) is a native that slowly forms a wide clump of plants over a period of years. All of these shrubs are for sun to partial sun, though coontie will also do well in shade.

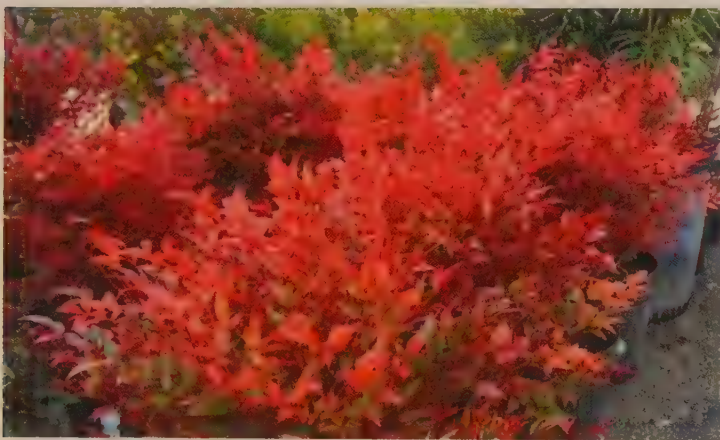




'Kaleidoscope' abelia has colorful foliage all year. Full to partial sun. 'Confetti' is somewhat similar.



'Encore' azaleas bloom sporadically spring thru fall. Sun to light shade. (Photo, encoreazaleas.com)



'Firepower' nandina has colorful foliage, especially in the winter. Doesn't form berries and so isn't invasive.



'Blush' nandina has more yellowish and orange tones and is more compact. No berries.



'Color Guard' yucca for full to partial sun.



'Drift' roses for sun. Low drifts of roses.



Variegated shell ginger may receive a little cold damage, so use it sparingly as a foundation plant. Can get 3-5 ft. tall. Part shade to sun.



Dwarf crape myrtles such as 'Cherry Dazzle' stay small. They are deciduous. (*Thuja Gardens Tree Nursery photo.*)

Medium Shrubs



Japanese boxwoods, above, sheared to give a formal look. Full to partial sun.



Dwarf yaupons, also sheared, but not so tightly. Full to partial sun.



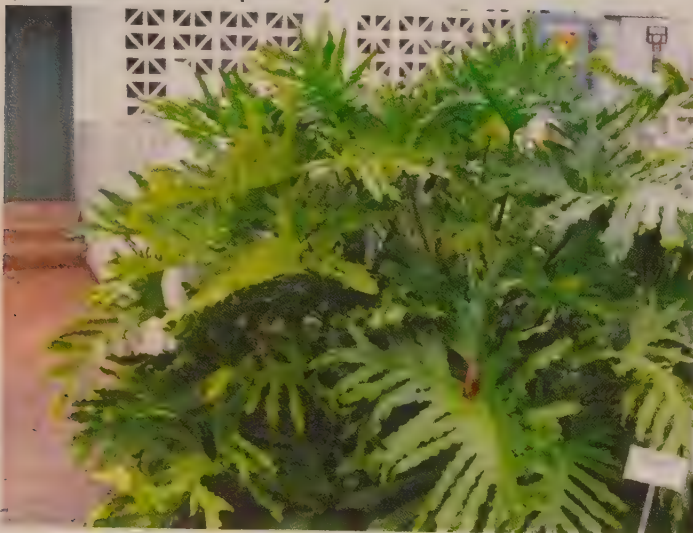
Grey Owl' juniper only grows to 3 ft. tall and spreads 6 ft. wide. For full sun and well-drained soil. Grey-green foliage contrasts well with darker green foliage of many other plants.



Indian hawthorn (*Raphiolepis*), with flowers in spring, needs at least half a day of sun. Above right, *Ilex cornuta* 'Rotunda', dwarf Chinese holly, stops intruders with its spiny leaves. Full to part sun.



Aucuba, such as the cultivar above, 'Mr. Goldstrike', is good for adding a little foliage color in shaded areas. Fatsia (right), with its large leaves, adds rich texture in shaded areas. (msucares.com photo)



Philodendron selloum (left) gives a tropical look in part sun to shade. Needle palm (right) is a shrubby, cold hardy, evergreen native palm for full to partial shade.



Hydrangeas give color in shaded spots, both the mophead type (left) and the lacecap type (right). Variegated foliage on the lacecap is also attractive.



Virginia sweetspire, a native that flowers in spring, also has colorful foliage in the fall. Partial sun to partial shade.



Oregon grape holly (*Mahonia bealei*) is for shade to partial shade. Yellow flowers in late winter, followed by blue berries.



At left, blue stem palmetto (*Sabal minor*), a small native palm for shade to partial sun. At right, saw palmetto, another native palm, low-growing and spreading in clumps. 'Silver Saw' has silvery green foliage. Sun to partial shade.





Century plant (*Agave Americana*) is a stately specimen plant for sun to partial sun. Gets large with time.



'Purple Diamond' loropetalum is supposed to grow no taller than 4-5 ft. For sun to part sun. Pink flowers in the spring.



'Knock Out' rose, a spectacular performer for full sun, has low maintenance requirements.



Rosemary is a culinary herb that is also very attractive in the landscape. Gray-green foliage. Full to partial sun.



Sasanqua camellias can be maintained as medium-sized shrubs, providing flowers in fall. Many types can also be allowed to grow into small trees. Partial shade to part sun.



Sago palm is a good accent plant for sun to shade, zones 8-10, though scale insects can sometimes be a problem.



Texas sage does well in full sun and dry soil. Lavender flowers appear in summer. (PlantDaddyBlogspot.com photo)



Agave gloriosa 'Variegata' is a striking, drought-tolerant plant for full sun, adding a different form and color to the landscape.



'Nick's Compact' or compact Pfitzer juniper grows 3-5 ft. tall and wide. As with all junipers, full sun and well-drained soil is needed.

Large Shrubs



Most loropetalum cultivars grow quite large. This hedge is about ten feet tall. At left it is in flower in late winter to early spring. As shown at right, the burgundy foliage makes it attractive all year. Loropetalums have surpassed azaleas in popularity because the bloom period is much longer, the foliage is attractive year-round, and the plants are more drought-tolerant. Though this hedge hasn't been pruned, loropetalum also responds to pruning quite well, enabling you to maintain it at a lower height if you so desire. Plant in full to partial sun.



The large Southern Indian hybrid azaleas, such as 'Formosa', are beautiful during their spring bloom period. Best in partial sun to partial shade.



Camellias flower during the winter when little else is flowering. There are many cultivars from which to choose. Plant in shade to partial sun.



Bottlebrush (*Callistemon*) is a spring-summer blooming shrub for full sun, attractive to hummingbirds. *C. citrinus* and *C. rigidus* are the most cold hardy, some cultivars even have hardiness into Zone 7.



Yesterday, today, and tomorrow (*Brunfelsia* spp.) is a spring-flowering shrub with flowers that emerge as dark lavender, fade to light lavender, then almost to white. Flowers have light fragrance. Full to part sun. Zone 8b-11.



'Majestic Beauty' is a large, spring-blooming cultivar of the evergreen Indian hawthorn. Can be used as small specimen tree or large shrub in full sun.



Oleander is a drought-tolerant, summer-flowering shrub for full sun. Pink, red, white, or yellow flowers. All parts poisonous if eaten.



Gardenia is a late spring to summer blooming evergreen with very fragrant flowers. Full sun to partial shade.



Banana shrub is a spring-blooming evergreen. Flowers have sweet fragrance of bananas. Full sun to partial shade. Though scale is a common pest, it doesn't do much damage to the plant.



There are many cultivars of American holly which grow to become small trees or large shrubs. This particular one is 'Savannah'. Evergreen, best in full sun.



'Burford' holly is a large evergreen shrub with glossy leaves having one spine at the tip. Showy berries in winter. For full to partial sun. Dwarf Burford is a little smaller, but still can grow to 5-8 ft. tall. If you wish to plant Burford holly close to the house, use the dwarf form and even then put it 6-8 ft. from the house so that it won't grow up under the eaves in a few years.



Pyracantha, or firethorn, has nasty spines which cause many people not to plant it. But it makes a beautiful fall show of berries in full sun.



Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*) is a native holly with small red berries in winter. This is the weeping form. Full sun to partial shade.



Wax myrtle is a common native evergreen shrub. The female form has small gray berries favored by some birds. Can be grown as a hedge plant, with limbs all the way to the ground. Or it can be grown as a small tree-form with bare trunks. Grows best in full sun but will tolerate light shade.



Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) is a deciduous, native with fragrant flowers in summer. Full sun to shade. (University of Rhode Island Botanical Gardens photo)



Cleyera is a large, upright shrub with glossy leaves. Sun to moderate shade. Requires frequent pruning to keep lower. (Clemson University photo)



Florida leucothoe or pipestem (*Agarista populifolia*) is a tall, weeping evergreen native shrub that grows best in shade to partial shade. Responds well to pruning, making it more compact and fuller.



Japanese ligustrum (*Ligustrum japonicum*) grows large but can be maintained as a moderately sized hedge with frequent pruning. Full sun to partial shade. Very versatile, can be pruned into a small tree also, as shown at right (Tree-land.com photo). Evergreen.



Spineless yucca (left) can be used to make a dramatic statement in the landscape. It grows quite large, though, so give it room. Full sun to partial shade. Very drought tolerant.



One of our best choices for an evergreen hedge in shade, yellow anise (*Illicium parviflorum*), a native, also does well in full sun. Can get up to 20 ft. tall and 15 ft. wide but can be maintained lower by shearing.



Japanese anise (*Illicium anisatum*) also grows to be a large shrub or small tree. Though it, too, tolerates some shade, it is not as shade-tolerant as is the native yellow anise.



Pittosporum (*Pittosporum tobira*) has small white fragrant flowers in spring. The variegated form (right) is used more than the green form (left). With frequent pruning, both types can be maintained as a medium-size hedge. But if left unpruned, the plants can grow quite tall. Sun to shade. Drought tolerant and salt-tolerant.



Abutilon or flowering maple (left) is a colorful deciduous shrub, with its bell-shaped flowers spring through fall. Full sun is preferred. Depending on the species and cultivar, flowers are orange, red, or yellow. Hummingbirds like it.



Althea, or Rose-of-Sharon, is a deciduous, cold-hardy hibiscus that blooms during summer. Various cultivars and colors are available. This one is 'Aphrodite'. Partial to full sun. (Photo from LSUAgCenter.com)



Oakleaf hydrangea is a native, deciduous hydrangea which has white, lightly fragrant flowers in late spring. In fall the leaves can be very colorful. Partial shade with protection from harsh afternoon sun is best.



Feijoa (pineapple guava) is a tough, evergreen, drought-tolerant shrub that has gray-green foliage and white flowers with red stamens during the summer. The flowers are edible, as is the fruit which follows. Full to partial sun.



'Torulosa' juniper may grow up to 15 feet tall with time. Its twisted growth habit gives it an interesting form to use as a corner specimen plant. Full sun and good drainage is needed for all junipers.



Tea olive (*Osmanthus fragrans*) is known for its fragrant flowers fall, winter, and spring. Evergreen for partial shade to full sun. Commonly grows to 10 ft. tall and 6-8 ft. wide, so give it room. Most people plant it too close to the house. (Photo from Forest and Kim Starr, Wikimedia)



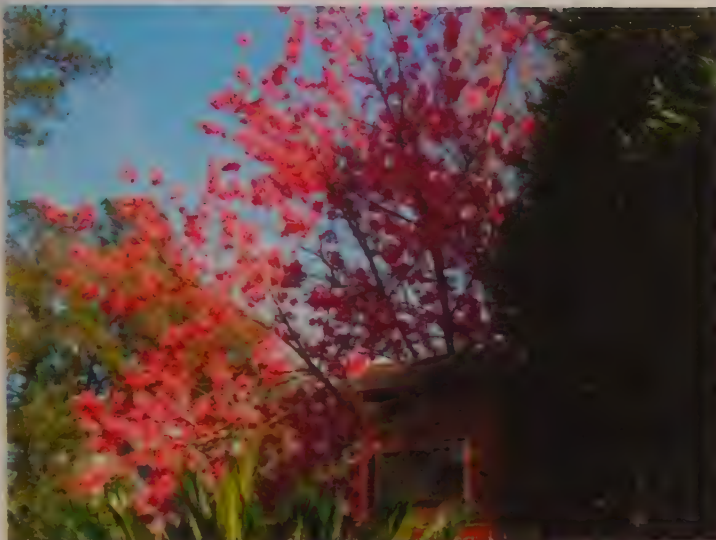
Possumhaw or deciduous holly is very showy in the winter when the plant has no leaves and the berries are present. Grows in full sun to partial shade. Very drought tolerant. Attracts birds. Cultivars with special attributes are available.



All for full sun, above left, 'Carolina Sapphire' Arizona cypress (30'-50' tall, 15' wide); above, 'Bluepoint' juniper (12' tall, 8' wide); and left, Hetzi columnar juniper (10'-15' tall, 5'-8' wide) are needle evergreens for large spaces.

4 Trees

Small Trees



Taiwan cherry (above left) and saucer or Japanese magnolia (above right) are some of the earliest flowering trees, usually blooming in late winter. The native redbud (left) blooms a little later, with dogwoods (bottom) usually flowering in March to April, depending on the location. The pink dogwoods only bloom reliably Atlanta and north (Zone 8a). Dogwoods will grow in full sun, but they prefer filtered sunlight. 'Forest Pansy' redbud, not shown here, has burgundy foliage.





Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) is a native that flowers in spring, usually after the dogwoods. (Michael Demaree photo)



Loquat, an evergreen, has fragrant fall blooms and colorful, tasty fruit in early spring if grown in enough sun.



Loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*) grows to 35-50 ft. tall but only 10-15 ft. wide. Evergreen native with white flowers during the summer. Tolerant of wet sites.



Ashe or big leaf magnolia is a small, deciduous understory tree (for shade) with huge leaves and large, fragrant flowers in spring.



The chaste tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*) is a small tree with blue flower spikes in the summer. Plant in full sun. Very attractive to bees. Choosing a named cultivar such as 'Shoal Creek', 'Abbeville Blue', 'Montrose Purple', or 'Salinas Pink' guarantees better flower than buying a selection without a name.



Crape myrtles come in various colors, sizes, and shapes. Above left is 'Sioux', a narrow upright form with clear pink flowers. At right is 'Natchez', a very broad, spreading white-flowering form. Some crape myrtles, such as the one below left, are low-growing shrub forms. Pick the appropriate crape myrtle form for the site. Don't top crape myrtles when pruning. Allow them to develop their natural form so that you can enjoy the characteristic sculptured trunks and branching form, as illustrated on this very old specimen, below right. (Photo by Sue Watkins) For more info on selections, see <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/mg/mg26600.pdf>.





Crape myrtles have exfoliating bark. When the white bark of 'Natchez' peels off, it reveals beautiful cinnamon-colored bark beneath.



Most crape myrtles have excellent fall color. So, they provide flowers in summer, fall leaf color, and nice sculptural interest in the winter.



Sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*, left) is a native magnolia, usually small, that tolerates wet sites fairly well. It's evergreen in the lower South. It has white, scented flowers in the summer. For full sun to partial shade. (Photo from Wikimedia Commons, George Melki) 'Little Gem' (right) is a selection of southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) that only reaches 20-30 ft. tall, grows in an upright compact form, and flowers at an early age. It is much more useful on smaller sites than is its parent plant, the regular southern magnolia. (Photo, UGA College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences)





Red buckeye, a native, usually only grows to 8-10 ft., but sometimes grows up to 30 ft. or so. Red flowers in late winter, attractive to hummingbirds. Partial shade.



Jerusalem thorn (*Parkinsonia aculeata*), native to Mexico and the S.W., is very drought tolerant. Full sun. Yellow summer flowers. Has sharp thorns. Zones 8-11. Is damaged below 18 degrees F.



Dahoon holly (*Ilex cassine*) is a native holly that grows in sun to shade. Attractive berries in the winter. Grows to about 30 ft. tall.



Round-leaf holly (*Ilex rotunda*) is a not-so-common holly that is very durable once established. Grows to about 40-60 ft. tall eventually. Full to partial sun.



'Savannah' holly is a pyramidal tree to about 35 ft. tall. Sun to partial sun. When you buy hollies, try to always select those with berries. Male hollies don't have berries. Normally hollies sold in nurseries will be females, so they should have berries. But, if possible, buy when berries are present just to be sure.



Yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) is a small native tree or large shrub. The weeping cultivated form was shown under large shrubs. The native form, shown here, broader and more spreading, would have more use in the landscape as a small tree.



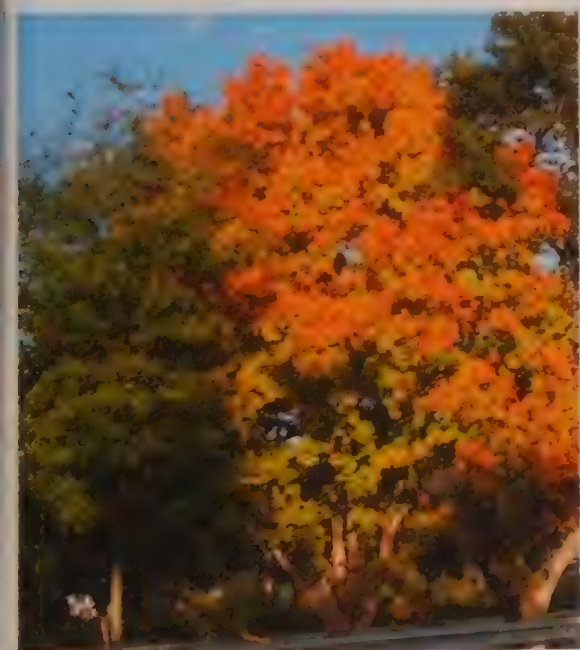
Oriental persimmons are beautiful in the fall when the tasty fruit ripens. Don't plant too close to a patio or other area where the dropping fruit can be messy. Plant in full sun. It takes a few years before they begin to bear.



Though fall color of the Chinese pistachio can vary among individual trees, it is often excellent, making it a good choice for fall color. Female trees can have reddish blue fruit in the fall. But they aren't edible. The pistachio nut comes from a different species.



There are various types of Japanese maples, varying from very short, slow-growing, spreading specimens as shown on the left, to larger, taller trees as shown on the right. Make sure you know the expected growth habit of the type you plant. Generally, the smaller specimens will need a little shade from the harsh afternoon sun. The larger specimens can handle it better but still do best with a little afternoon shade. Some of the smaller types maintain their red leaf color into the summer. All have good fall color.



Florida maple (*Acer saccharum floridanum* or *Acer barbatum*), the southern version of sugar maple, only grows to about 50 ft. and has good fall color.

Bradford pear, a cultivar of callery pear, has good fall color, and in Zone 8a, white flowers in spring. But it has narrow branch angles and limb breakage is common in older trees.



Winged elm (*Ulmus alata*) is usually seen as a 40-50 ft. tree, but it can grow larger with age. A native that is adaptable to a large range of site conditions, from dry to wet. Good shade tree. More adaptable than the Drake elm so overused in landscaping. (Photo from AllNativeFlora.com)



American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) is a native that has good tolerance to compacted urban soil and to wet sites. Grows well in sun or shade, normally to 30-40 ft. tall and almost as wide. Has good fall color before dropping leaves. Is another good alternative to the over-planted Drake elm. (Photo from UF Horticulture Dept.)

'Okame' cherry has flowers that are lighter pink than the Taiwan cherry at the beginning of this chapter. Flowers appear in January or February. The tree has good, compact form, growing to about 20 ft. tall and wide. Plant in full to at least partial sun.



Large Trees



The live oak, a native evergreen oak, grows at a moderate rate to be a large, strong, long-lived tree with a beautiful, spreading form. Zones 7b-10b.



Shumard oak is a fast-growing deciduous oak that makes a good shade tree and provides fairly good fall color.



White oak (*Quercus alba*) grows best from zone 8b up through 3b. It is slow-growing, becoming a massive, stately shade tree with good fall color.



Southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*) grows to be a large, drought-tolerant oak with strong wood. Not showy fall color but still a good shade tree. (Wikipedia photo by Altairisfar)



Scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*) grows to a height of 75 ft. or so. Excellent fall color. Only moderately drought tolerant.



Sawtooth oak (*Quercus acutissima*) grows to about 60 ft. Has strong trunk flare so don't plant too close to sidewalks. Brown leaves in winter.



Swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*) tolerates urban soil conditions well. Becomes a large shade tree. (NCWildflower.org photo)



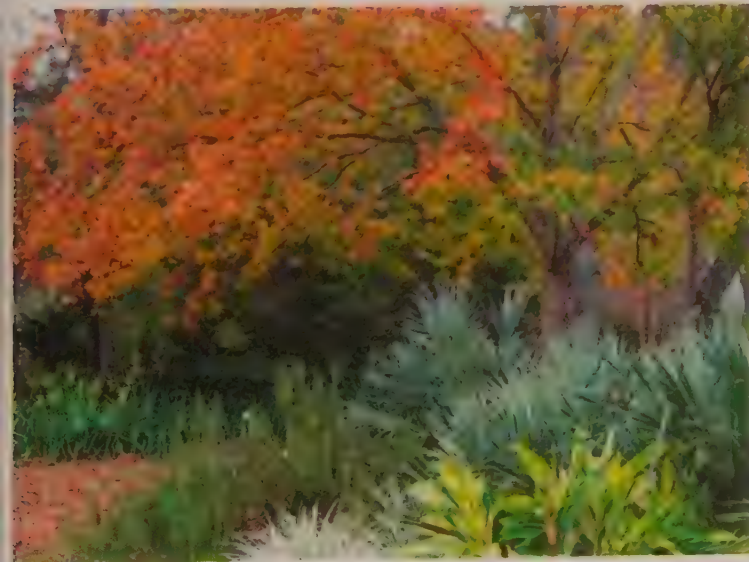
Sweetgums are often maligned for their spiny gumballs, but they are fast-growing shade trees, quite colorful in the fall.



Hickories are some of our most dependable trees as far as color in the fall. They grow at a reasonably fast rate. Don't plant too near an area where you will park or where you will sit. The nuts, which fall each autumn, can produce quite an impact.



Red maple (above left) starts out in spring with red flowers and then red seeds. In the fall (below, left) red maple's leaves put on a nice show of color. Ginkgo (above right) consistently turns a beautiful gold each fall. Zones 3a-8b. In the center of the photo below right is spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*). Unlike most of the other pines, spruce pine retains most of its lower limbs, resulting in a much fuller tree and adding to its attractiveness as a landscape tree.





Don't rule out other pines such as loblolly pines as landscape trees. They are fast-growing, evergreen, and can serve a purpose.



Though bald cypress and pond cypress are known for growing on wet sites, they grow fine in almost all urban situations and have good fall color.



Deodar cedar is a fast-growing large evergreen tree. Native to the Himalayan mountains, it grows well on all but poorly drained soils. Zones 7a-9a. (Wikipedia photo, Luigi Chiesa)



Black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) is variable in growth habit and usually has good fall color. Tolerates compacted soils well but not for very dry sites. (Photo by Jean-Pol Grandmont, Wikimedia Commons)

Palms



The native sabal or cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) can grow up to 30-40 ft. tall with age. It is tolerant of salt spray and hardy to about 10°F.



The pindo palm (*Butia capitata*) is slow-growing to about 20 ft. tall. It is tolerant of salt spray and hardy to about 14°F.



European fan palm (*Chamaerops humilis*) is a small clumping, multi-stemmed palm that only grows to about 10 ft. tall. It is hardy to about 16°F and will tolerate some salt spray.



Windmill palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) grows as a single trunk slowly to about 20 ft. tall. It is cold hardy to about 10°F and will tolerate some salt spray.



Chinese fan palm (*Livistona chinensis*) is a slow grower to 25 ft. tall. It is hardy to about 18°F and has moderate salt tolerance. (Wikimedia Commons photo)



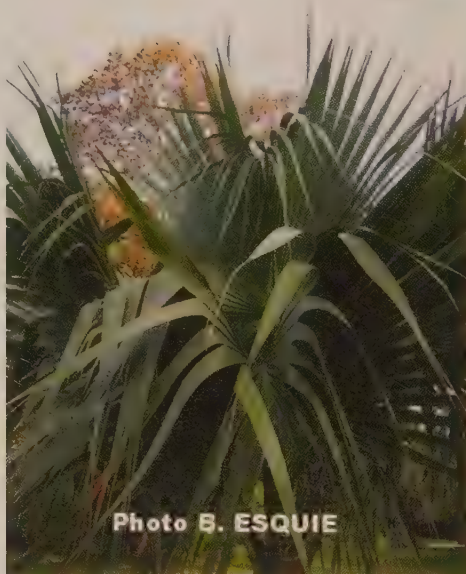
Chilean wine palm (*Jubaea chilensis*) is a very slow grower to 50-80 ft. It is hardy to about 14°F. Has low salt tolerance. Full sun, well-drained soil. (Photo by SteffanMP, Wikimedia C.)



Sonoran palmetto (*Sabal uresana*) grows slowly to about 60 ft. Hardy to about 14°F and has moderate salt tolerance. Full sun. (Scott Zona, Wikimedia C. photo)



Rio Grande palmetto (*Sabal mexicana*) is slow grower to about 40 ft. Hardy to about 17°F. Moderate salt tolerance. (Photo, Whitney Cranshaw, (Col. State Univ.)



Hispaniolan palm (*Sabal umbraculifera*), a slow grower to 60 ft. Hardy to about 9°F. High salt tolerance. (Photo from <http://billhook.free.fr/>)



Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), very slow grower to 40 ft. Hardy to about 19°F. (James Steakley, Wikimedia Commons)



Blue hesper palm (*Brahea armata*) only grows to 4-8 ft. here. Hardy to 14°F. Needs very good drainage. Moderate salt tolerance. (Photo, R.J. Castillo, Wikimedia Commons)



Yatay palm (*Butia yatay*), slow grower to 35 ft. Hardy to about 15°F. Moderate salt tolerance. Similar to pindo palm, but more widely spreading leaves. (Photo, Dr. Kelen Soares, palmpedia.net)



Cretan date palm (*Phoenix theophrasti*) is a clustering or clumping palm, slow-growing to about 25 ft. tall. Hardy to about 19°F. Moderately salt-tolerant. (Photo by Wauter Hagens, Wikimedia Commons)



Blue needle or Caranday palms (*Trithrinax campestris*) in an Argentine palm forest. Slow grower to only about 12 ft. in our conditions. Hardy to about 13°F. Good drainage is essential. (Photo attributed to Xxy99, Wikimedia Commons)

For more information on palms, see
Palms for North Florida,
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep359>

5 Groundcovers & Ornamental Grasses



Giant liriop, shown in the foreground above, is a groundcover that grows 18-24 inches high. The giant liriops are clumping liriops, not spreading ones. For shade to sun.



Mondo grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus*) is a spreading groundcover for shade. It forms a thick cover which will shade out most weeds once established. It yellows if it receives too much sun.



'Crystal Falls' (*Ophiopogon jaburan*) is a relatively new, coarser textured Mondo grass. It has white flowers during the summer. For shaded sites. (Photo from Plant Preview blogspot)



Aztec grass is one of various variegated liriops, good for adding a little contrast to solid green plantings. For sun to shade.



New Zealand flax or *Dianella* is an attractive variegated plant that gives a much bolder look than variegated liriopse. Most safely used in Zones 9-10 because can be damaged by hard freezes even in Zone 8b. The taller green in the background is African iris.



Breeze' lomandra is an evergreen, mounding grass that grows roughly 2 ft. tall and 3 ft. wide. Needs good drainage. For full sun to partial shade. Slow grower. Has a nice, weeping, fine-textured look and does wave in the breeze, as the name implies.



Marsh grass or sand cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*) is more adaptable to adverse site conditions than is lomandra. It grows in Zones 8b-11 in all types of soil. Native to the coastal region, it tolerates extended flooding and salt. Grows to about 3 ft. tall and 3-5 ft. wide. Spreads by rhizomes. Full sun. Evergreen though foliage turns tan in fall and winter.



Gulf muhly grass is a native grass noted for its pink flower plumes in the fall. It's especially beautiful when the plumes are backlit by the sun. For full sun and well-drained sites. Cut the plants back to about six inches in the late winter, before spring growth emerges.



Fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) is used as a perennial ornamental grass in zones 8-9. The plumes appear in the fall and persist into the winter. Full sun. Has low potential for invasiveness into natural areas according to UF-IFAS assessment.



Purple fountain grass has burgundy foliage and pinkish-purple plumes in the fall. Used as a short-lived perennial in zones 9-10, as annual in Zone 8. Good in containers also. Full sun. Foliage color provides good contrast to greens.



Maiden grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) is a stronger-growing perennial grass for zones 8-9. Can be used in most of the U.S. Its flower plumes appear in the fall and persist for several months. Fast grower to 5-6 ft. tall with equal spread. Full sun. Can be used in containers also.



Zebra grass and porcupine grass are variegated cultivars of *Miscanthus sinensis*. Zebra grass has arching foliage whereas porcupine grass has more rigid, upright foliage. Otherwise, growth is similar to other maiden grass cultivar. For full sun. Reliable perennial grasses.



African iris, above left, and against the house in the photo above right, grows well zone 8b and south. Flowers, either white or pale yellow depending on type, appear during the summer if African iris is grown in enough sunlight. The plant will grow in shade but just won't flower as well. Multiplies, rapidly filling the planting area over several years. Very drought tolerant once established.



Low-growing junipers, such as the 'Parsoni' juniper at the front of this planting are good for full sun. Junipers need good drainage.

Dwarf Japanese garden juniper (*Juniperus procumbens* 'Nana') only grows to about 1 ft. tall and spreads up to 6 ft. wide.



Low-growing junipers such as the dwarf Japanese garden juniper and the creeping junipers (many cultivars of *J. horizontalis*) can be good choices where a groundcover is needed in a sunny, well-drained spot.



Blue Pacific Juniper (*J. conferta*) is yet another of the choices of low-growing junipers for groundcovers. Good drainage is necessary.



Beach sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*) blooms year-round. Zone 8b and south. Native. Full sun. Salt and drought tolerant.



Perennial or ornamental peanut is a good groundcover for sunny areas. Flowers during the warm seasons and dies back only for a short period in winter in north Florida. For zone 8b and south. Salt, drought tolerant.



Dwarf or firetail chenille plant can be used as a groundcover for zones 8b and south. Full or partial sun to partial shade. Flowers almost year-round. Will spread somewhat aggressively. Drought tolerant.



A large area of Asiatic jasmine backed with clumps of Faxahatchee grass. Asiatic jasmine can be used in sun to shade but is very aggressive and will require frequent edging and trimming to keep it in bounds once well established. For that reason its popularity has waned. Faxahatchee grass is a tall native grass (5 ft.) for moist to wet soils and sun to light shade. Zones 8-11.



Aspidistra or cast iron plant is the plant in the back. It grows to about 2 ft. tall and spreads. Shade, no full sun. Drought tolerant and, yes, tough as cast iron! Leaves get blighted by the end of the year but you can cut it back in late winter to spring.



Southern woods fern is a native fern for shade to partial shade. Spreads to cover a large area. Can be cut back in late winter to early spring to clean it up if needed. Also shown in the foreground of the photo at left.



Above left, Japanese painted fern, grows 18" tall in shade to part shade, moist soil, zones 3-8. Slowly spreads. Above, holly fern, is for zones 6-11, shade to part shade. Grows to 2 ft. tall, deer resistant. At left, variegated Algerian ivy grows in full to partial shade, zones 7-10. Any of the ivies will require regular maintenance to stop them from getting out of bounds and climbing trees. Otherwise they can overtake a tree with time.



6 Vines



Butterfly vine (*Mascagnia macroptera*) is an excellent evergreen vine for zones 8-10. Partial to full sun. Yellow flowers appear late spring through fall, followed by butterfly-shaped seed pods.



Confederate jasmine has exquisitely fragrant flowers in the spring. Foliage is evergreen. Full sun to partial shade. Will need some type of trellis support to attach to walls. Best to not let it climb trees. Zones 7b-10.(Photographer unknown)



Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*) is a semi-evergreen native vine for zones 6-9. Flowers appear in the spring. Attractive to hummingbirds. Full sun to partial shade, but fewer flowers in partial shade. 'Tangerine Beauty' is improved cultivar with large orange flowers.



Lavender trumpet vine (*Clytostoma callistegioides*) is a vigorous grower and bloomer. Evergreen. Flowers in spring. Drought tolerant once established. Full sun to filtered shade. Zones 8-11.



Trumpetcreeper is a deciduous native that flowers during the summer. Very attractive to hummingbirds. Fast-growing, spreading. 'Madame Galen', pictured here, has large orange flowers. Full to part sun.



Coral or trumpet honeysuckle is a native, not the invasive Japanese honeysuckle. Attracts hummingbirds, blooms spring to summer. Zones 4-10, evergreen when no winter cold. Full to part sun.



American wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*) is a native (zones 6-9) that isn't invasive. Flowers later than Chinese wisteria. 'Amethyst Falls', shown here, is an improved cultivar. Full to partial sun. Fragrant.



Argentine sky vine (*Thunbergia grandiflora*) blooms in the fall. Zones 8-11. In zone 8, top growth dies back in winter, but returns annually. In isolated cases, has escaped cultivation in zones 10-11. Full to part sun.



Creeping fig (*Ficus pumila*) is a fine-textured, evergreen vine that adheres strongly to walls, steps, etc., creating a green wall. Will damage wooden surfaces. Grows in zones 8-11, tolerating short freezes. Shade to sun. Will require frequent pruning to keep it from covering undesired area. (Photo FloridaHillNursery.com)



Lady Banks rose blooms just once a year, in the spring. But it is spectacular while in bloom. It is not really a true vine but is rather a large, vigorously growing, cascading shrub. It is often used to cover a wall, fence, or arbor. Requires a lot of space. Blooms on second and third year wood, so don't overprune it. Full sun. (GreensboroDailyPhoto.com)



You probably won't find this vine in the garden centers, though it probably ought to be there. The author has grown it on a fence for a number of years. It has been very well-mannered. Flowers summer to fall in zone 8b. Not even sure about the identification, though it is probably *Cissus erosa* or a related species of *Cissus*. Attractive little vine.

The vine pictured to the right, Queen's wreath (*Petrea volubilis*), can only be grown in Zones 10-11 without winter protection. It needs second-year growth to have the flowers in spring and summer and in Zone 8b, where the author lives, the freezes prevent that. So in Zones 8b-9 it has to be grown in a container and overwintered in a greenhouse or sun room. Still, that may appeal to some of you because otherwise its care requirements are minimal.



7 Container Gardening



Containers enable you to have plants and colors on patios, pool decks, porches, etc. The possibilities are infinite. Here are caramel heuchera, dianthus, and artemisia.



A combination of greens and color in this container work well. The saw palmetto is the main plant. Some of the others may have to be replaced with cold weather.



The pots themselves can be quite decorative.



Some plants in the container may be longer lasting than others. The petunias, for example, here may fizzle out in summer heat but the foxtail fern will go for years.



Succulent dish or container gardens can be attractive and easy to care for as long as you don't overwater and if the plants receive enough bright light.



Don't forget window planters.



Fairy gardens, miniature scenes created with small plants and figures, can be especially interesting for children.



Be creative such as with these purse planters!



Petunias, calibrachoa, and 'Blackie' sweet potato vine.



Almost a complete garden in itself, this large container is loaded with an assortment of plants.

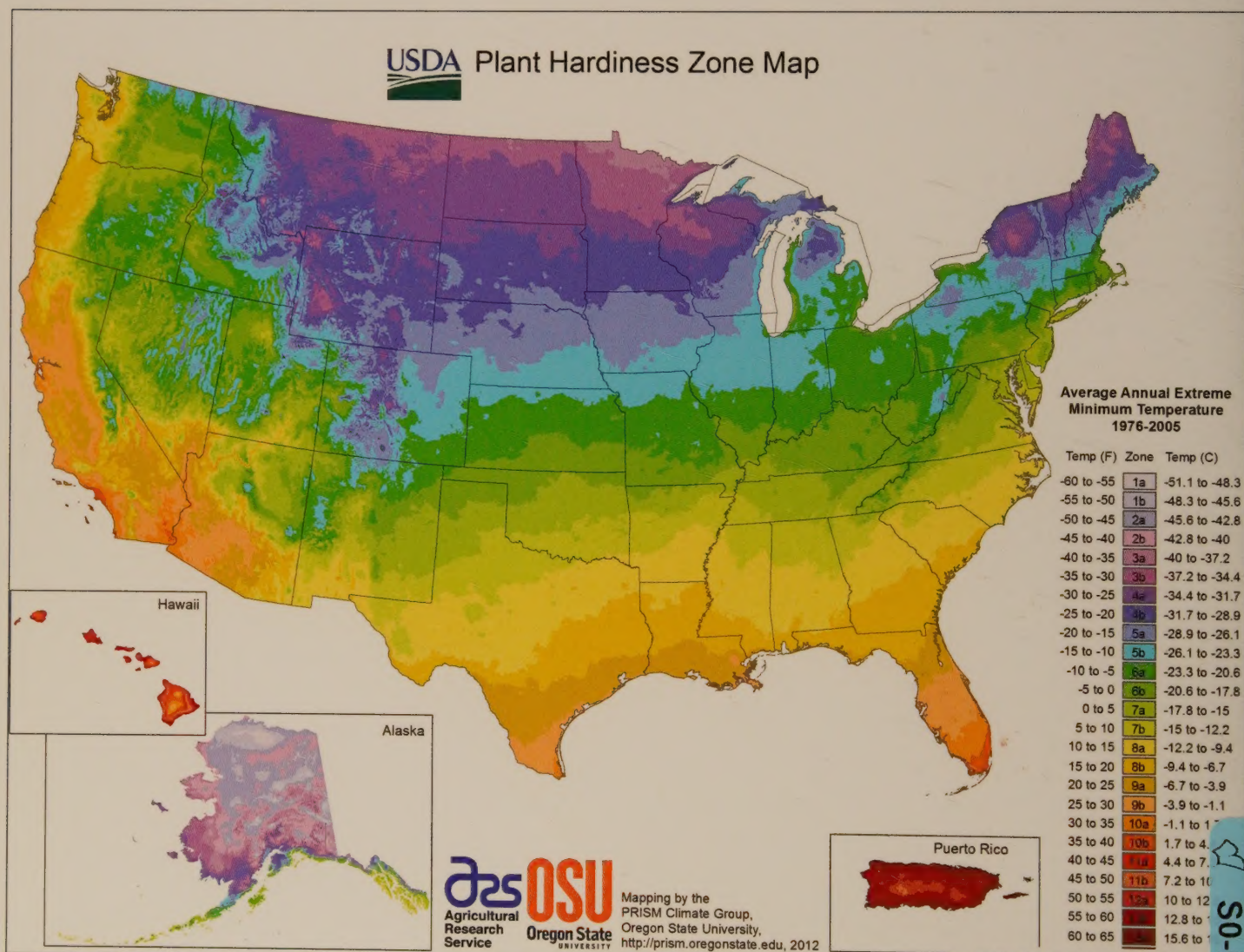


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